

SENATOR WITHEM: I would call the question.

SPEAKER BAACK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. We will now vote on ceasing debate. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on ceasing debate. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Debate has ceased. Senator Moore, would you like to close on your amendment?

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker and members, I think the amendment has been well discussed and Senator Wesely raised some interesting questions which, as I had mentioned, I had a concern about as well. I mean in a perfect world, if money was not an issue and employer money was not an issue, fixing the COLA would probably be the right way to do it. The fact is that's a very, very expensive proposition that causes me great concern, coupled with the fact that, obviously, any activity you do in the COLA area, you have to think how that is going to impact our two defined contribution systems and where does that leave them? And so, given the fact that I'm nervous to get real aggressive on the COLA area, I think doing something on the formula, on the factor is worth doing. I was uncomfortable with going all the way to 1.8. This way, as mentioned, we phase in over a period of over four years. The first year we go to 1.7 which is a mirror of what Omaha already has and in the next three years it goes from 1.73 to 1.76 to 1.80. It, obviously, during that time period, if for whatever reason, it was our choice to deal with the COLA provision and spend the money to do that, you might look at not raising some of those formula factors, but until then with the activity that is going on in neighboring states already on raising the factor, this bill would keep the teacher's component competitive with the teachers' components in other states. And so, with that, I simply ask for adoption of my amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: You've heard the closing on the Moore amendment. We will now vote on the Moore amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of Senator Moore's amendment.